

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

- Claim 20 (original) A process of preparing *rac*-bicalutamide, comprising the steps of:
- a) preparing a mixture of 5-amino-2-cyano-benzotrifluoride and butyl lithium in an organic solvent;
 - b) adding ethyl-[2-{4-fluorophenyl sulfone}]-2-hydroxy propionic acid to the mixture; and
 - c) recovering *rac*-bicalutamide.
- Claim 21 (original) The process according to claim 20, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran and diethyl ether.
- Claim 22 (original) The process according to claim 20, wherein the ethyl-[2-{4-fluorophenyl sulfone}]-2-hydroxy propionic acid is added to the mixture at a temperature of about -65°C .
- Claim 23 (currently amended) The process according to claim 20, wherein the recovering step comprises evaporating the mixture containing ethyl-[2-{4-fluorophenyl sulfone}]-2-hydroxy propionic acid.
- Claim 24 (original) The process according to claim 20, wherein the recovering step further comprises separating the ethyl-[2-{4-fluorophenyl sulfone}]-2-hydroxy propionic acid.

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Preliminary Amendment

Claim 25 (original) The process according to claim 20, wherein the *rac*-bicalutamide is an R-isomer.

Claim 26 (original) The process according to claim 20, wherein the *rac*-bicalutamide is an S-isomer.

Claims 27-49 (canceled)